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in the broad sense. The last three sections deal with the causes of progress, economic and general, a summary of the culture stages, and a closing discussion of culture and happiness.

All of this is exceedingly interesting and stimulating. Here we have a case where the arrangement and presentation of material is itself so ingenious and constructive that the result is a genuine contribution to the subject. On the basis of this solidly constructed foundation the author is enabled to erect certain conclusions as to the relation between culture and happiness, two of the most significant of which are that thoughtless procreation on the part of human individuals has now become actually immoral, and that the development of culture which has been largely unconscious in the past must now become deliberate, purposeful, and conscious.

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Elementary Economics. By THOMAS NIXON CARVER. (Boston: Ginn and Company. 1920. Pp. viii, 400. \$1.72.)

The author's earlier book, *Principles of Political Economy*, was reviewed in the December, 1919, issue of this REVIEW, pages 796-797. The general content and philosophy of the two books are equivalent. The present volume is briefer and somewhat simplified in statement, having in view a younger constituency. Lists of questions, evidently very carefully considered, are appended to each chapter and a considerable number of interesting and instructive illustrations are furnished in the chapters on production. The aim of the book is to promote national welfare. It will afford genuine pleasure to any sincere student of economic problems with painful experience of the character of recent books proffered by critics of existing economic conditions and would-be guides to economic welfare to read the mature and reasoned arguments of this text. There is sufficient criticism of existing institutions and customs joined always with positive constructive suggestions. No youthful student of economics could fail to profit from intimate acquaintance with a book of such evident and earnest sincerity and zeal for the truth, for right thinking, and right living. These are qualities which all past students of Professor Carver's expect to find in every welcome volume from his pen. There is a homely and wholesome philosophy emphasizing moral qualities which "there is a tendency to underestimate in this age of great mental achievements, especially in the fields of physical science and mechanical inventions." The insistence on the importance of thrift, sobriety, and honesty may remind the reader of the doctrines of Franklin.

Professor Carver's general philosophy is well known and the book

under review is a restatement of familiar doctrines. No general criticism will be attempted. The reviewer knows no better text for high school use. For straight thinking, sound learning, skill in exposition, sturdy belief in liberty and democracy, and sanity of statement and belief, it has no rival. A dip in this philosophy after immersion in current economic criticisms and complaints is as refreshing as a plunge in clear, cool waters under an unclouded sky. Yet he finds himself burdened with a suggestion and a couple of questions. Would it not be desirable to include an enlarged statement of the concrete facts of inequality? It is not alone the inequalities of wealth and income but the varying qualities of individuals, groups, and races that need emphasis. This in view of the applicability of such knowledge to the "balancing up" program. Suppose the next generation of high school students were to be taught these doctrines and to come out filled with ardent reforming zeal, as might logically happen. Would it not be well that they temper their zeal with discretion born of knowledge of the exact characteristics and economic condition of our hundred millions of population? Such a tremendous fact as the moral, mental, and economic status of our millions of negroes might serve to inform their zeal and furnish direction to their attacks.

Similar questionings arise in connection with the final paragraph of the text, "Poverty easily curable under freedom." It declares: "We need not have poverty among us a generation longer than we want it. By setting to work deliberately to balance our population, causing ignorance and lack of skill to disappear and causing technical training and constructive talent to increase, we can, in a short space of time, make low wages and poverty a thing of the past." Would it be so simple and so rapid? The central question of hereditary abilities is admittedly unsolved. "There is no doubt whatever, that men of average natural ability may be greatly improved by education and training, nor is there any reasonable doubt that some are capable of being trained much more highly than others because of a difference in natural ability." Passing that, how shall such Herculean feats of education be consummated? We are not blessed with fairy wands to endow our students with sweet reasonableness and teachableness (see p. 35). Nor yet equipped with such superabundance of teaching talent or genius that we may hope to overrule in a single generation the deadly weight of bad example, vicious or misleading ideals, and ingrained early habits of thought and character necessarily resultant from the overlapping of generations. However earnestly we set to work we cannot expect to deal with a generation absolutely plastic, and untrammelled with earlier traditions and disturbing influences. The conclusion seems inevitable that our ardent youths are doomed to disappointment as early

as it will be severe if they tackle this problem with hope of a quick and complete victory. It might be better to send them to the conflict with a clear-eyed vision of the inherent complexities and enormous dimensions of the contest before them and with anticipations of a lengthy struggle.

A final question may be raised as to the underlying philosophy of the book. It aims at national welfare and it finds such welfare in a program which insures that our nation shall be selected to expand in wealth, numbers, and power and ultimately possess the earth. It is a stern philosophy which admits no mitigation or cessation of international rivalry nor of the pressure of populations. It finds that "victory must ultimately go to the race or nation with the most efficient standard of living," and calls for "preparedness for this ultimate and decisive conflict" through "study of the standards of living and the adoption of such standards and habits as increase productive efficiency to the maximum and reduce the cost of living to the lowest point which is consistent with maximum productivity" (p. 350). How far this might carry us is suggested in the discussion of the control of consumption.

By an authoritative standardization of wearing apparel, food, and other forms of consumption we should tend to eliminate this worst form of competition. That would involve, of course, the organization of society on a semi-military basis, though the object need not be military conflict. It would mean the prescribing of a satisfactory uniform for all members of the community and also of a uniform diet or ration. Houses, furniture, and other consumable goods would also have to be standardized and prescribed by government regulations (p. 344).

May one not fairly question the sufficiency of such a philosophy as the governing ideal of our nation. After successful appropriation of the earth, what next? Competition by groups each reducing consumption, exalting production, and piling up ever greater strength for further competition?

Should we teach in New England the supreme importance of adopting an efficient standard of living to the end that, through trade rivalry we may ultimately possess these United States? If national welfare, why not state welfare? After all, is the danger of our extinction through international trade rivalry so pressing, the continuance of the extraordinary nineteenth century expansion of population so certain, that we must teach our youths that their lives are dedicated to their nation's expansion, that the sum total of duty and of life is to work? Are we to eliminate from education all that does not further trade rivalry? Like the race of armaments this is only necessary if the preaching of competition prevails. These questions are set down,

one may be permitted to add, by one who is and has always been an admirer of Professor Carver. This is an admirable text. But the reviewer cannot follow this philosophy and would not teach this doctrine. He has faith to believe, despite recent events and personal experiences, that the world is on the threshold of better things and that means will be found to control trade (or warlike) rivalry and "balance up" populations with territories, competition with coöperation, and even things of this earth with things of the mind and spirit. He proposes so to teach.

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NEW BOOKS

- ANSIAUX, M. *Traité d'économie politique*. (Paris: Giard. 1920. Pp. 388. 20 fr.)
- BUER, M. C. *Economics for beginners*. (London: Routledge. 1921. 4s. 6d.)
- CONRAD, J. *Volkswirtschaftspolitik*. Eighth edition. (Jena: Fischer. 1920. 48 M.)
- DIEHL and MOMBERT. *Wert und Preis*. (Karlsruhe: Braun. 1920. Two vols. 12 M. each.)
- JENTSCH, C. *Volkswirtschaftslehre, Grundbegriffe und Grundsätze der Volkswirtschaft*. Sixth edition. (Leipzig: Grunow. 1920. 11 M.)
- JOURNÉ, M. *Principes d'économie politique*. (Paris: Alcan. 1921. Pp. 490.)
- KIDD, B. *Social evolution*. New, revised edition. (New York: Putnam. 1921. Pp. ix, 404. \$2.50.)
- LAING, G. A. *An introduction to economics*. (New York: Gregg Pub. Co. 1920. Pp. 454. \$1.20.)

The preface states that the author of this text "has had constantly in mind the demands of secondary schools for a textbook that lays stress upon the discussion of economic principles with special reference to American conditions." Accordingly the book has the usual apparatus of chapter and paragraph headings and summary conclusion to important chapters. It omits what has come to be a familiar feature of such texts: aids to the student in the form of questions, problems, and exercises. The author attempts to compress into brief compass the subject-matter of the ordinary economics course. He has emphasized the "failure of competition" and the growth of monopoly control. There is an extended discussion of financial matters. Six chapters out of thirty, and about a fifth of the text's pages, are devoted to the discussion of money and banking. The treatment of distribution on the other hand is extremely brief. Interest, rent and profits are handled in a single chapter of twelve pages. More extended treatment is given the subject of wages, and labor questions in general, but one searches in vain for a positive statement of wage doctrine. The author admits no population difficulty and includes no discussion of Malthusian theories.